Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 9 and 37-49 without disclaimer or prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please add new claims 50-59 as set forth below.

1-49. (Canceled)

50. (New) A method of enhancing relaxation of a penile smooth muscle in a subject having heightened contractility of the penile smooth muscle, comprising the direct introduction and expression of a DNA sequence comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a sequence encoding a potassium channel protein that enhances relaxation of the penile smooth muscle, into a sufficient number of penile smooth muscle cells of the subject to enhance relaxation of the penile smooth muscle in the subject.

51. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the potassium channel protein is a calcium-sensitive potassium channel protein.

52. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the potassium channel protein is a metabolically-gated potassium channel protein.

53. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the potassium channel protein is an inward rectifier potassium channel protein.

54. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.

55. (New) The method of Claim 51, wherein the calcium-sensitive potassium channel protein is maxi-K.

56. (New) The method of Claim 52, wherein the metabolically-gated potassium channel protein is K_{ATP} and the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.

57. (New) The method of Claim 53, wherein the inward rectifier potassium channel protein is K_{ATP} and the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.

58. (New) The method of Claim 55, wherein the promoter is a smooth muscle specific promoter.

59. (New) The method of Claim 50, wherein the DNA sequence is introduced by naked DNA transfer.